

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 18, 30, 41 and 47 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus comprising:

first channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a first estimation method;

second channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;

first combining means for combining signals in accordance with a first output from said first channel estimation means;

second combining means for combining signals in accordance with a second output from said second channel estimation means;

detection means for detecting errors of outputs from said first and said second combining means, wherein said detection means comprises first and second decoding means for decoding the respective outputs from said first and said second combining means; and

selection means for selecting the output of one of said first and second decoding means ~~first and said second combining means~~ on the basis of errors of outputs from said first and second decoding means.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein each of said first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein one of said first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein one of said first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

23. and 24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of said first and said second combining means in accordance with an error detected with respect to a pilot symbol.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of said first and said second combining means in accordance with an error detected with respect to periodically received pilot symbols.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of said first and said second combining means in units of frames.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of said first and said second combining means in units of frames including frame error detection codes.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus comprising:

- first channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a first estimation method;
- second channel estimation means for performing channel estimation by using a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;
- first combining means for combining signals in accordance with a first output from said first channel estimation means;
- second combining means for combining signals in accordance with a second output from said second channel estimation means;
- detection means for detecting errors of output from said first and said second combining means, wherein said detection means comprises first and second decision means for performing symbol decision ~~with respect to the~~ of respective outputs from said first and said second combining means; and

selection means for selecting the output of one of said first and second  
decision means ~~first and said second combining means~~ in accordance with errors based on  
the decisions made by said first and second decision means.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein  
said selection means selects one of said first and said second combining means in  
accordance with an average of errors based on the decision made by said decision means .

32. to 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A reception method comprising the steps of:  
a first channel estimation step of performing channel estimation by using a  
first estimation method;  
a second channel estimation step of performing channel estimation by using  
a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;  
a first combining step of combining signals in accordance with a first result  
of the first channel estimation step;  
a second combining step of combining signals in accordance with a second  
result of the second channel estimation step;  
a detection step of detecting errors of combination results obtained in the  
first and the second combining steps, wherein the detection step comprises a decoding step  
of decoding the respective combination results in the first and the second combining steps;  
and

a selection step of selecting one of the respective decoding results of the first and the second combining steps on the basis of errors of the respective decoding results obtained in the decoding step.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the first and the second channel estimation steps comprise estimating a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

43. and 44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the selection step comprises selecting one of the first and the second combining steps in units of frames.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) A reception method comprising the steps of:  
a first channel estimation step of performing channel estimation by using a first estimation method;  
a second channel estimation step of performing channel estimation by using a second estimation method different from the first estimation method;  
a first combining step of combining signals in accordance with a first output of the first channel estimation step;

a second combining step of combining signals in accordance with a second output of the second channel estimation step;

a detection step of detecting errors of combination results obtained in the first and the second combining steps, wherein the detection step comprises a decision step of performing symbol decision ~~with respect to the~~ of respective combination results in the first and the second combining steps; and

a selection step of selecting one of the respective symbol decision results of ~~the~~ first and the second combining steps in accordance with errors ~~based on~~ of the respective symbol decisions obtained in the decision step.

48. to 50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein one of said first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein one of said first and said second channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

53. (Canceled)